IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (previously presented) An information recording apparatus, comprising:

title retrieval means for reading from a recordable medium title information for respective titles for motion picture data recorded on the recordable medium;

chapter retrieval means for reading chapter information for respective chapters in the respective titles based on the title information;

representative picture selection means for selecting a representative picture for each of the respective chapters based on the chapter information; and

menu generation means for generating a top menu and for recording the top menu on the recordable medium, the top menu including a display area for reproducing the respective chapters based on the chapter information and including each said representative picture,

said representative picture selection means being operable to determine whether specified effect capturing is to be performed, and when such determination indicates that the specified effect capturing is to be performed, the representative picture selection means selects the respective picture from picture data of a group of pictures located after a first group of pictures of the respective chapter.

2.   (canceled)

3.   (canceled)

4.   (canceled)

5.   (canceled)

6.   (previously presented) An information recording apparatus, comprising:

title retrieval means for reading from a recordable medium title information for respective titles for motion picture data recorded on the recordable medium;

chapter retrieval means for reading chapter information for respective chapters in the respective titles based on the title information;

menu generation means for generating a top menu and for recording the top menu on the recordable medium, the top menu including a display area for reproducing the respective chapters based on the chapter information; and

representative picture selection means for selecting a representative picture in the respective chapters based on the chapter information,

wherein the menu generation means generates the top menu so as to contain the representative picture associated with a corresponding display area,

wherein the representative picture selection means selects first closed picture data in the respective chapters as the representative picture, and

wherein, when the first closed picture data has a specified attribute, the representative picture selection means selects succeeding closed picture data not having the specified attribute as the representative picture.

7.   (previously presented) The information recording apparatus according to claim 6,

wherein, when the first closed picture data exceeds a camera-shake correction limit, the representative picture selection means selects succeeding closed picture data not

exceeding the camera-shake correction limit as the representative picture.

8.   (previously presented) An information recording apparatus, comprising:

title retrieval means for reading from a recordable medium title information for respective titles for motion picture data recorded on the recordable medium;

chapter retrieval means for reading chapter information for respective chapters in the respective titles based on the title information;

menu generation means for generating a top menu and for recording the top menu on the recordable medium, the top menu including a display area for reproducing the respective chapters based on the chapter information; and

representative picture selection means for selecting a representative picture in the respective chapters based on the chapter information,

wherein the menu generation means generates the top menu so as to contain the representative picture associated with a corresponding display area,

wherein the representative picture selection means selects first closed picture data in the respective chapters as the representative picture, and

wherein, when the first closed picture data depends on specified effect capturing, the representative picture selection means selects succeeding closed picture data independent of the specified effect capturing as the representative picture.

9.   (previously presented) The information recording apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

apparatus type detection means for detecting an apparatus type having recorded the motion picture data for the respective titles on the recordable medium,

wherein the chapter retrieval means, when the apparatus type for a title corresponds to a specified type, reads the chapter information for all chapters contained in the title and, when the apparatus type for the title does not correspond to the specified type, reads the chapter information only for a beginning chapter in the title.

10.   (previously presented) An information recording apparatus, comprising:

title retrieval means for reading from a recordable medium title information for respective titles for motion picture data recorded on the recordable medium;

chapter retrieval means for reading chapter information for respective chapters in the respective titles based on the title information; and

menu generation means for generating a top menu and for recording the top menu on the recordable medium, the top menu including a display area for reproducing the respective chapters based on the chapter information; and

apparatus type detection means for detecting an apparatus type having recorded the motion picture data for the respective titles on the recordable medium,

wherein the chapter retrieval means, when the apparatus type for a title corresponds to a specified type, reads the chapter information for all chapters contained in the title and, when the apparatus type for the title does not correspond to the specified type, reads the chapter information only for a beginning chapter in the title, and

wherein, when the apparatus type for a title is a camcorder, the chapter retrieval means reads the chapter

information for all chapters contained in the title and, when the apparatus type for the title is not a camcorder, reads the chapter information only for a beginning chapter in the title.

11.   (canceled)

12.   (previously presented) An information recording method, comprising:

reading from a recordable medium title information for respective titles for motion picture data recorded on the recordable medium;

reading chapter information for respective chapters in the respective titles based on the title information;

selecting a representative picture for each of the respective chapters based on the chapter information; and

generating a top menu and recording the top menu on the recordable medium, the top menu including a display area for reproducing the respective chapters associated with the representative pictures based on the chapter information and including each said representative picture,

said selecting including determining whether specified effect capturing is to be performed, and when such determination indicates that the specified effect capturing is to be performed, selecting the respective picture from picture data of a group of pictures located after a first group of pictures of the respective chapter.

13.   (previously presented) An information recording method, comprising:

reading from a recordable medium title information for respective titles for motion picture data recorded on the recordable medium;

reading chapter information for a beginning chapter in the respective titles based on the title information;

detecting an apparatus type having recorded the motion picture data for the respective titles on the recordable medium;

reading the chapter information for respective chapters following the beginning chapter when the apparatus type corresponds to a specified type; and

generating a top menu and recording the top menu on the recordable medium, the top menu including a display area for reproducing the respective chapters based on the chapter information,

wherein, when the apparatus type for a title is a camcorder, the chapter information for all chapters contained in the title are read and, when the apparatus type for the title is not a camcorder, the chapter information only for a beginning chapter in the title is read.

14.   (canceled)

15.   (currently amended) A non-transitory recording medium recorded with a program for causing a computer to execute an information recording method, the method comprising:

reading from a recordable medium title information for respective titles for motion picture data recorded on the recordable medium;

reading chapter information for respective chapters in the respective titles based on the title information;

selecting a representative picture for each ofthe respective chapters based on the chapter information; and

generating a top menu and recording the top menu on the recordable medium, the top menu including a display area for reproducing the respective chapters associated with the

respective pictures based on the chapter information and including each said representative picture,

said selecting including determining whether specified effect capturing is to be performed, and when such determination indicates that the specified effect capturing is to be performed, selecting the respective picture from picture data of a group of pictures located after a first group of pictures of the respective chapter.

16.   (currently amended) A non-transitory recording medium recorded with a program for causing a computer to execute an informative recording method, the information recording method comprising:

reading from a recordable medium title information for respective titles for motion picture data recorded on the recordable medium;

reading chapter information for a beginning chapter in the respective titles based on the title information;

detecting an apparatus type having recorded the motion picture data for the respective titles on the recordable medium;

reading the chapter information for respective chapters following the beginning chapter when the apparatus type corresponds to a specified type; and

generating a top menu and recording the top menu on the recordable medium, the top menu including a display area for reproducing the respective chapters based on the chapter information,

wherein, when the apparatus type for a title is a camcorder, the chapter information for all chapters contained in the title are read and, when the apparatus type for the title is not a camcorder, the chapter information only for a beginning chapter in the title is read.

17.   (previously presented) An information recording apparatus, comprising:

a title retrieval section operable to read from a recordable medium title information for respective titles for motion picture data recorded on the recordable medium;

a chapter retrieval section operable to read chapter information for respective chapters in the respective titles based on the title information;

a representative picture selection section operable to select a representative picture for each of the respective chapters based on the chapter information; and

a menu generation section operable to generate a top menu and to record the top menu on the recordable medium, the top menu including a display area for reproducing the respective chapters based on the chapter information and including each said representative picture,

said representative picture selection section being operable to determine whether specified effect capturing is to be performed, and when such determination indicates that the specified effect capturing is to be performed, the representative picture selection section selects the respective picture from picture data of a group of pictures located after a first group of pictures of the respective chapter.

18.   (canceled)

19.   (previously presented) The information recording apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising:

an apparatus type detection section operable to detect an apparatus type having recorded the motion picture data for the respective titles on the recordable medium,

wherein the chapter retrieval section, when the apparatus type for a title corresponds to a specified type,

reads the chapter information for all chapters contained in the title and, when the apparatus type for the title does not correspond to the specified type, reads the chapter information only for a beginning chapter in the title.

20. (previously presented) The information recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when said determination indicates that the specified effect capturing is not to be performed, the representative picture selection means determines whether picture data of a current group of pictures has a specified attribute and, when the picture data of the current group of pictures has the specified attribute, the representative picture selection means selects the respective picture from picture data of a succeeding group of pictures which does not have the specified attribute.

21. (previously presented) The information recording apparatus according to claim 17, wherein, when said determination indicates that the specified effect capturing is not to be performed, the representative picture selection section determines whether picture data of a current group of pictures has a specified attribute and, when the picture data of the current group of pictures has the specified attribute, the representative picture selection section selects the respective picture from picture data of a succeeding group of pictures which does not have the specified attribute.